



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



neepster

Phunky in Phoenix

Phoenix, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Phoenix is a booming city, as well as one that is bursting with life and the arts. This city in the desert attracts many artists of all disciplines and gives anyone who wishes to enter its galleries all they could want. Along with these passionate galleries are chefs who care just as much, with names like Razz's Restaurant and Bar, you should be able to tell what you are in for... a great time in Phoenix.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Phoenix

DAY NOTE: Phoenix is a bursting with life and there is no better place to witness this than downtown. The Hotel Mondrian Scottsdale is just the place, situated in downtown Scottsdale, it is just a short walk to the hustle and bustle of the city. Take a look for yourself and head to the Civic Center Mall and other nearby attractions. First stop Cosanti Originals, this is an amazing artistic venue featuring the handcrafted earthen works of Paolo Soleri. These creations are of limited edition and are extremely rare, so either grab one for your own enjoyment or peruse the selection that he offers at his gallery. From one form of art to another you will be delighted with Razz's Restaurant and Bar where Chef "Razz" will be stun you with his classic entrees made with his own innovative ingredients. This restaurant is not only a feast for your stomach but also for your eyes, the creative contemporary cuisine goes along well with the artwork of the restaurant, featuring some of Chef Razz's personal work. In keeping with the theme of Phoenix and its art, next stop is Work of the Artists Gallery where you will be able to peruse over 200 local artists work. They have a wide array of artwork ranging from sculptures to prints, clocks, poetry and more. This eclectic collection is updated daily so it is never the same experience. Just a short distance away is the Hilton Village where you can check out the shopping scene in Phoenix. Within this village is a great collection of well know upscale stores to local and award winning boutiques for both men and women. Medizona is one of the hottest restaurants in downtown Phoenix with its creative coupling of Greek and Southwestern food. Be sure to book a table in advance because this place is happening. After a great dinner at Medizona it is time to head over to the Cricket Pavilion to catch your favorite act performing in this open air amphitheater with award winning acoustics. Refreshments and food are available during the show as well.



Cosanti Originals

Handcrafted artwork by Paolo Soleri



Work of Artists Gallery

Local artistry

works. From here head over to Rinaldi's on Third a pick up one of their renowned lunch sandwiches and head over to one of the nearby parks to enjoy the beautiful weather of Phoenix. You can also save your sandwiches and enjoy them at the next stop the Phoenix Zoo. They have a wide selection of picnic areas, so it is up to you. As you walk the Forest of the Uco and African Trails you will feel as if you are really in Africa, with its variety of species from lions to giraffes. Be sure to look at not just the animals but the habitats that have been created for them, they are amazing. Walking to Africa and back again is sure to work up quite the appetite, and Monti's La Casa Vieja is just the place for you to fill up. If possible sit outside on their patios and enjoy the great view of the lake. They have a very creative menu ranging from steaks and seafood to ostrich fillet! After good food, what is better than good music? The Marquee theatre is a smaller local venue that still attracts big names and is a great show. Be ready for a great general admission show with plenty of beer and good times. After the show you can either head back to those amazing beds at the Mondrian or head over to Gordon Biersch Brewing Company and down a few of their lagers or ales, which are brewed in house. This brewery is a great visit with its lively atmosphere, and is a perfect place to enjoy your night in Phoenix.



Phoenix Zoo

Interactive, family-friendly zoo



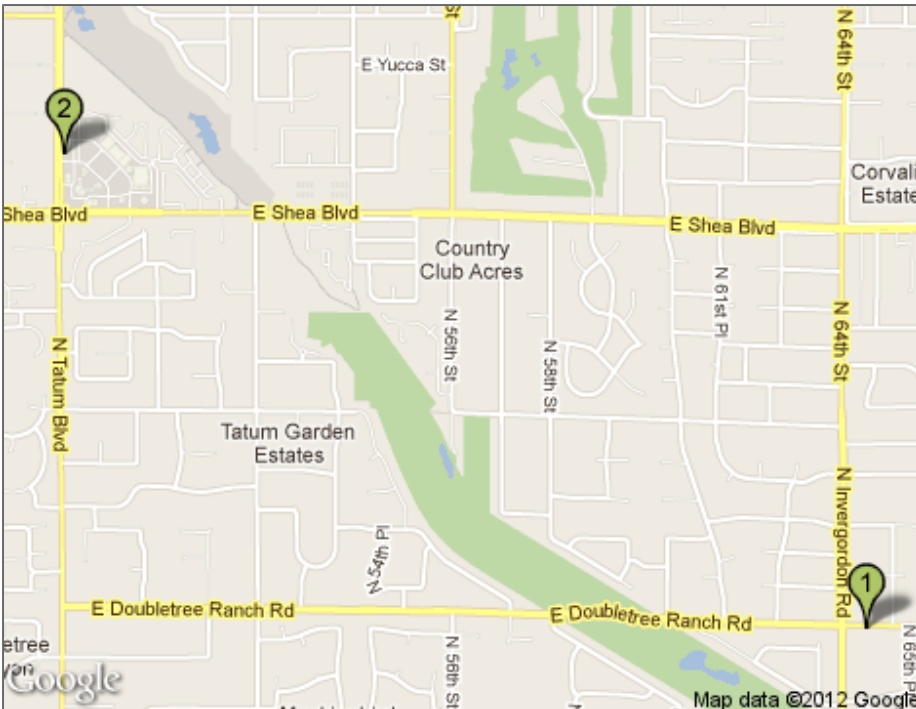
Marquee Theatre

A mark of good music!

Day 2 - Phoenix

DAY NOTE: When it is finally time to drag yourself out of your comfortable beds at the Mondrian, do not worry - the first stop of the day is just downtown at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary art, and either a quick walk, or an even quicker taxi ride, will give you plenty of time to enjoy their array of artwork. This museum is especially unique because of its free art lectures and poetry readings. One of the coolest things is their forums which allow you to speak directly with the artists of your favorite

Day 1 - Phoenix



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contact:
tel: +1 800 752 3187
<http://www.cosanti.com>

location:
85253

hours:
9a-5p M-Sa, 11a-5p Su

1 Cosanti Originals

DESCRIPTION: This boutique features handcrafted wind-bells and sculptures by artist Paolo Soleri. All purchases go to fund the ongoing development of Soleri's famous Arcosanti, his version of the merging of architecture and ecology. The ceramic is blended from Arizona clay, stoneware and water. Pieces are cast-molded from a "slip," hand carved with designs, and then kiln fired. Bronze bells have also been produced since 1959, using a sand-casting method. The purchase of any of these unusual and beautiful gift items supports important artistic work. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: +1 480 596 0304
fax: +1 480 596 0311
<http://www.workofartists.com/>

location:
10835 North Tatum Blvd
Phoenix AZ 85028

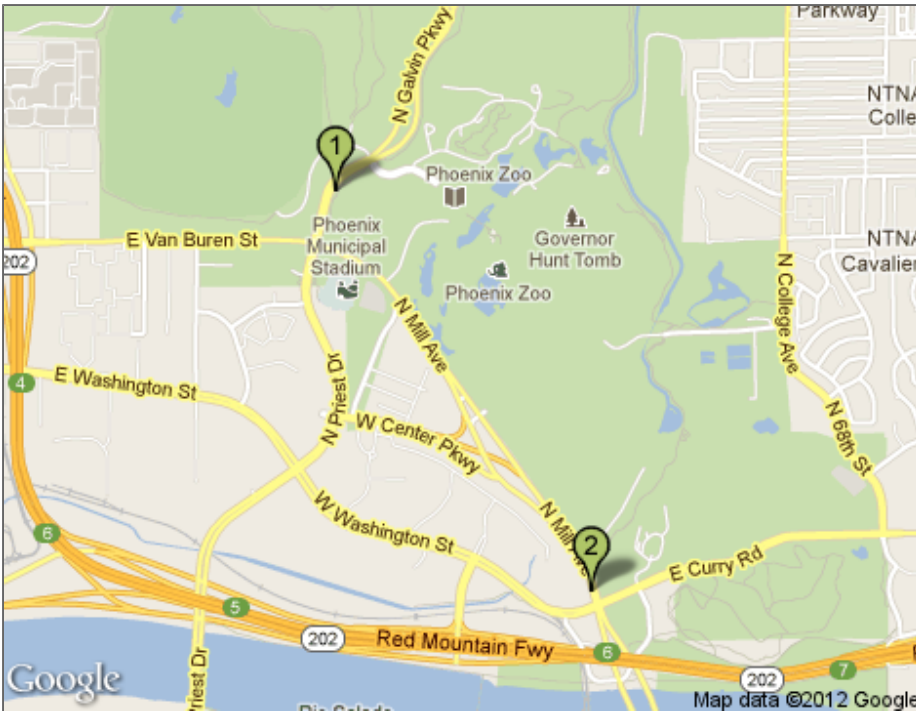
hours:
10a-9p M-Sa, 10a-6p Su

2 Work of Artists Gallery

DESCRIPTION: Unique offerings from more than 200 artists are gathered together for your shopping pleasure. Choose from cool sculptures, prints, clocks, Native American art and pottery. Famous Cosanti Collection wind chimes make thoughtful gifts or souvenirs of Arizona, and the proceeds from these purchases help support continued Arcosanti construction. Driftwood welcome signs are displayed next to horseshoe art in this eclectic exhibit. New items are added daily, so feel free to visit often to find one-of-a-kind art. © wcities.com



Day 2 - Phoenix



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contact:

tel: +1 602 273 1341

fax: +1 602 273 7078

<http://www.phoenixzoo.org>

location:

455 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix AZ 85008

1 Phoenix Zoo

DESCRIPTION: Located on 125 acres adjacent to Papago Park, the Phoenix Zoo has been entertaining visitors for a half-century. Four trails lead visitors into habitats replicating such habitats as a tropical rain forest and a African savanna. One of the most popular attractions is The Forest of Uco, which is home to the endangered spectacled bear from South America.



Colorado Luis

hours:

Oct 1-Nov 3 and Jan 11-May 31 daily 9am-5pm; Nov 4-Jan10 daily 9am-4pm; June-Sept Mon-Fri 7am-2pm, Sat-Sun 7am-4pm

On the interactive Discovery Trail, young children learn about small mammals, and even get chance to help milk a cow or groom a horse.
© NileGuide

contact:

tel: +1 480 829 0607 / +1 480 829 1300 (Box Office)
fax: +1 480 829 1552
<http://www.luckymanonline.com/venues.aspx>

location:

85281

hours:

Box Office: 10:30a-7p M-F,
1p-5p Sa

2 Marquee Theatre

DESCRIPTION: This venue is a great place to catch a live musical concert in the whole of Tempe. Various bands - local and international, are known to perform here. So if you're a true music lover, then attending a concert at Marquee would make for a great experience, what with all the swaying crowds, old and new crooners, beer and plenty of parking space. Tickets can be booked at the box office or through phone orders. © wcities.com



team obama 08

Phoenix Snapshot

Local Info

Love it or hate it, this sprawling desert metropolis has become one of the biggest, most modern cities in the American West. Rising from the ashes of the Hohokam civilization, Phoenix transitioned from dusty agricultural farm town to gleaming city of nearly two million residents (the population doubles if you include the suburbs) in the blink of an eye. Although the city keeps a low profile and is more famous for its suburban sprawl than tourist attractions, the city will reward your persistence if you take the time to seek out its hidden treasures.

Downtown Phoenix

Downtown Phoenix is still not what one would hope for in a city of this size, but development has been growing steadily over the years and there's plenty to see and do. The recent inauguration of the Arizona State University Downtown Campus has brought some much-needed new blood to downtown, with new student-centered businesses and living facilities adding a whole new energy to the area. Perhaps the biggest boon to downtown Phoenix in years is the new light rail system that connects downtown to points north and east, and makes it easier than ever to get around downtown.

Downtown becomes a frenzy of big-city pedestrian activity and traffic jams during major events. The Phoenix Suns play at the U.S. Airways Center, and the Arizona Diamondbacks are just a stone's throw away at Chase Field--expect big traffic delays during a game day. The Phoenix Civic Center drives traffic into the area with an ongoing schedule of national conferences and events, and visitors have plenty of choices in terms of museums and attractions. The Arizona Science Center is a favorite with kids and adults alike, while the Phoenix Art Museum regularly brings world-class exhibits to the Valley of the Sun. Other top museum destinations include the world-famous Heard Museum, home to one of the largest collections of Native American artwork, pottery, textiles, and jewelry, and the popular Phoenix Children's Museum, featuring hands-on exhibitions and activities for children of all ages.

The Downtown Phoenix Business Improvement District (formerly known as Copper Square) is the sleek 90-square

block nucleus of shops, eateries, and businesses. Here you can observe office workers criss-crossing the busy streets at lunchtime, with a slew of sandwich shops and cafes feeding the downtown masses with impressive speed. After business hours, however, the business district can start to look like a ghost town.

West Phoenix

The Westside, which makes up a large part of the Valley of the Sun, is a gathering of suburban neighborhoods largely developed throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Generally speaking, the homes and communities get newer the further west you drive, although there are pockets of historic points of interest. For vintage charm, check out Historic Downtown Glendale, touted as "Arizona's Antique Capital." Indeed, there's much antique hunting to be done at the shops of Caitlin Court.

Concertgoers should familiarize themselves with Cricket Pavilion, home to annual music festivals and major touring acts. Desert Sky Mall caters to West Valley's Latino population, while Arrowhead Towne Center in Peoria is a mecca for suburban shoppers. The Westside got a big shot in the arm with the development of the recent Westgate City Center, billed as "Times Square in the Desert," featuring chic boutiques, eateries, and multiplex movie theater. Westgate is home to the Phoenix Coyotes, who play at Jobbing.com arena, and just a stone's throw away is the huge University of Phoenix Stadium--lovingly nicknamed the Spaceship or Toaster by the locals--where NFL action looms large every Sunday in the fall with the Arizona Cardinals.

South Phoenix

This is one of the oldest parts of Phoenix and home to South Mountain Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the United States. Dobbins Lookout is located at 2330, the highest point in the park, and is easily accessible by car. Make sure to stop by for amazing panoramic views of the city. Horse rentals and trail hiking make this a perfect spot to spend the day.

South Phoenix is a culturally diverse area with thriving Latino and African-American communities. For comfort food ecstasy, South Phoenix is home to perennial favorites like Carolina's Mexican Food and

traditional soul food at Lo-Lo's Chicken and Waffles and Mrs. White's Golden Rule Cafe.

Northwest

A mix of old and new, the Northwest Valley is comprised of communities like Peoria, Glendale, Sun City, Sun City West, Youngtown, and Surprise. Sun City and Sun City West are large active living retirement communities. Some of the best hiking in the Valley of the Sun can be found at White Tank Mountain Regional Park, and animal lovers can get an eyeful at the Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium.

East Side

Some of the oldest and most exclusive communities in the Phoenix area are located on the Eastside. The Valley's rich and famous find their sanctuary among the red rocks and hills of Paradise Valley, while Scottsdale remains a major draw for its high-end boutiques, art galleries, and fabulous resorts. For exclusive shopping, dining, and weekly outdoor markets, the Borgata of Scottsdale brings a unique Mediterranean-in-the-Desert flavor to North Scottsdale.

Tempe, located south of Scottsdale, brings college town amenities and energy to the Valley of the Sun. Arizona State University, one of the biggest universities in the country, is the beating heart of Tempe. Mill Avenue, with its assortment of hamburger joints, cafes, boutiques, and bars, is the major artery and gathering point, home to the Tempe Festival of the Arts and major Fourth of July Festivities. Tempe Beach Park, built around the wide, artificial Tempe Towne Lake, offers temporary respite from the desert with boat rides, walking trails, and snack kiosks selling premium gelato.

Further east are the cities of Mesa, Chandler, and Gilbert. Mesa, once a busy agricultural community, is now a major city boasting the Mesa Arts Center complex and a busy downtown area. Chandler too has experienced a renaissance, with downtown receiving a major face-lift, and a full performing arts schedule showing at the Chandler Center for the Arts.

Continuing east we find Mesa, Chandler and Gilbert. Chandler remained largely an agricultural community until a growth spurt, which began in the 1970s. Much of this area houses young families and

Phoenix Snapshot continued

middle-class professionals in stucco and tile developments. Local shopping is enjoyable at the Superstition Springs Center Mall at

the northwest corner of Highway 60 and Power Road.

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